



Potential of Microbial Isolates from Indonesia in Producing Antimicrobial Compounds: A Review

Almando Gerald^{1,2*}, Nabilla Hapsari Wijaya^{1,2}, Christopher Clement², and Versa Rachmania Hajar²

¹University CoE-Research for Bio-Molecule Engineering, Universitas Airlangga, 60115 Surabaya, Indonesia

²Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universitas Airlangga, 60115 Surabaya, Indonesia

*Corresponding author

almando.gerald@fst.unair.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia, as a megabiodiverse country, possesses a wealth of beneficial microorganisms, including bacteria and fungi capable of producing antimicrobial compounds. Over the past decade, extensive research has been conducted in Indonesia to explore and screen the antimicrobial activities of bacteria and fungi. These microorganisms have been isolated from various ecosystems, such as terrestrial, maritime, extreme environments like hot springs and sand dunes, as well as from animals and plants hosts. Most studies have focused on the antimicrobial activity of crude metabolite extracts, which demonstrate inhibitory effects against clinically significant pathogens, including Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, multidrug-resistant *Escherichia coli*, and *Salmonella typhi*. This review systematically synthesizes findings from peer-reviewed literature, detailing isolation strategies, antimicrobial screening techniques, and the bioactivities reported. By consolidating current knowledge, it aims to elucidate the potential of Indonesia's microbial resources for developing novel antimicrobial agents and promoting their sustainable exploitation within the context of global health challenges.

1. Introduction

The misuse of antibiotics has precipitated the emergence of antibiotic resistance, an alarming global health crisis [1], [2]. The proliferation of antibiotic-resistant microbial strains presents a grave threat to worldwide healthcare systems, with the potential to instigate pandemics. Several antibiotic-resistant strains, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), multi-drug-resistant *Escherichia coli*, and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, have already surfaced [3]. As a result, extensive research endeavors are underway to explore antimicrobial compounds from diverse sources, encompassing plants, animals, as well as microorganisms like bacteria and fungi.

Exploration of organisms yielding antimicrobial compounds is a global undertaking. Plants, for instance, harbor secondary metabolites like flavonoids, quinones, and alkaloids, which disrupt the cell walls and membranes, and hinder protein synthesis and nucleic acid processes in pathogenic microbes [4], [5], [6]. Essential oils from *Cinnamomum verum*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, and *Syzygium*



aromaticum have been reported to inhibit MRSA growth [7]. Clove extract (*Syzygium aromaticum*) is documented to exhibit inhibitory activity against antibiotic-resistant Gram-negative bacteria [8]. Plant extracts from the Zingiberaceae family are known to possess antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* [9]. Conversely, antimicrobial compounds produced by animals primarily include antimicrobial peptides (AMP) that disrupt cell membranes and interact with macromolecules within cells [10], [11]. AMPs produced by the frog *Limnonectes fujianensis* have been reported to inhibit MRSA growth, while AMPs from the Horseshoe Crab (*Tachypleus tridentatus*) demonstrate antimicrobial activity against MRSA and Extended-spectrum- β -Lactamase (ESBL)-producing *E. coli* [12], [13].

Microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, have proven to be a rich source of antimicrobial compounds, many of which have been commercialized, including penicillin, streptomycin, and actinomycin [14], [15]. Moreover, they also produce a range of other antimicrobial compounds, such as pigments, alkylphenols, terpenoids, and nonribosomal peptides [16], [17].

Microorganisms offer the advantage of rapid growth and minimal space requirements for antimicrobial compound production. Bacteria and fungi can produce these compounds within days or weeks. In contrast, plant tissue and animal cell cultures for antimicrobial compound production require more time, involve intricate procedures, and incur higher costs. Additionally, the space needed for production is relatively minimal, often confined to a few square meters, owing to the ability to perform production processes in fermentors, unlike medicinal plants, that require extensive land for cultivation.

Indonesia, known as one of the biodiversity hotspots, has conducted extensive exploration of microorganisms producing antimicrobial compounds [18], [19]. Yet, there is currently a lack of scientific literature summarizing research on microorganisms yielding antimicrobial compounds in Indonesia. Such a comprehensive review would be crucial for formulating strategies to develop antimicrobial therapeutics. This review aims to encompass various bacteria and fungi from Indonesia that produce antimicrobial compounds, and summarize the progress in exploring these microorganisms and outlining potential avenues for future research.

2. Exploration of Antimicrobes-producing bacteria in Indonesia

In the past decade, extensive exploration of bacteria producing antimicrobial compounds has been carried out across various Indonesian ecosystems. As shown in Table 1, bacteria with antimicrobial activity have been successfully isolated from marine ecosystems, such as mangroves and tidal mudflats, extreme environments like hot springs and sand dunes, and fermented foods. Some microbes are associated with animals as endosymbionts or with plants as endophytic bacteria. Most of the bacteria producing antimicrobial compounds that have been isolated belong to the genera *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, and *Lactobacillus*, known for their antimicrobial compound production.

Table 1. Bacteria producing antimicrobial compounds isolated from Indonesia

Sources	Bacteria species	Antimicrobial activity	Reference
Green cacao fermentation process in West Sumatra	<i>L. brevis</i>	Culture free supernatant showed growth inhibition towards pathogenic <i>E. coli</i>	[20]
Marine sea slugs from North Sulawesi	<i>M. communis</i> , <i>Pseudoalteromonas</i> sp., <i>Vibrio</i> sp.	Ethyl acetate extract of the bacterial culture showed moderate to strong growth inhibition towards Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> or Enterohaemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> .	[21]
Rhizospheric soil of mangrove forests in Gorontalo	<i>Streptomyces</i> sp.	Acetone extracts of the bacterial culture showed bacteriostatic activity towards <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> with Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) value of 0.094, 0.125 and 0.280 mgmL ⁻¹ , respectively. Acetone and ethyl acetate extracts of the bacterial culture showed fungistatic activity towards <i>Aspergillus niger</i> and <i>Candida albicans</i> with Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) value of 0.125 and 0.250 mgmL ⁻¹ , respectively.	[22]

Seagrasses from North Java Sea	<i>B. flexus</i> , <i>Streptomyces lienomycini</i>	Ethyl acetate extract of the bacterial culture showed growth inhibition towards Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and Multidrug resistant <i>E. coli</i>	[23]
Intestines from domestic chicken (<i>Gallus domesticus</i>) from South Sulawesi	<i>B. subtilis</i> strain PATA-5.	Bacterial culture showed inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i>	[24]
Peat soil from South Kalimantan	Bacteria from family Enterobacteriaceae and Bacillaceae	Culture free supernatant showed growth inhibition towards Extended-spectrum β -lactamases-producing <i>E. coli</i> and Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	[25]
Coral reef ecosystems of Alor Island	<i>Pseudoalteromonas rubra</i>	Prodiginine pigments produced by <i>P. rubra</i> showed growth inhibition towards pathogenic bacteria <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Salmonella typhi</i> , and yeast <i>C. albicans</i>	[26]
Traditional fermented milk (dadih) from West Sumatra	<i>L. plantarum</i>	Culture free supernatant showed growth inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i> O157.	[27]

Rhizosperic soil in Pramuka Island, Jakarta	<i>Streptomyces badius</i>	Ethyl acetate extracts of the bacterial culture showed bacteriostatic activity towards <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>B. subtilis</i> with Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) value of 3.125, 6. 25 and 31.25 µgmL ⁻¹ , respectively.	[28]
Mangrove soil in Tuban, East Java	<i>Streptomyces vellosus</i>	Culture free supernatant showed growth inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i> ATCC 25922.	[29]
Coastal sand dunes in Yogyakarta	<i>B. megaterium</i> , <i>B. velezensis</i>	• Culture free supernatant of <i>B. megaterium</i> showed growth inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i> and <i>P. aeruginosa</i>. • Culture free supernatant of <i>B. megaterium</i> showed growth inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i> and <i>P. aeruginosa</i>.	[30]
Hot springs in North Sumatra	<i>B. megaterium</i>	Culture free supernatant showed growth inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> .	[31]

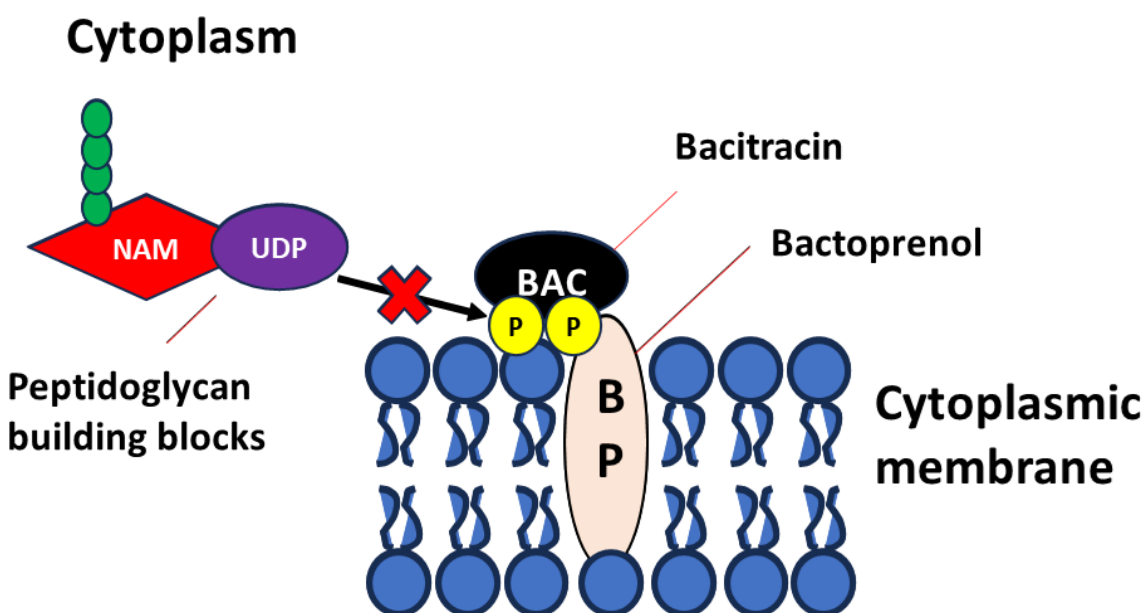


Figure 1. Illustration of the antibacterial mechanism of bacitracin by inhibiting the transport of peptidoglycan building blocks.

Bacteria from the genus *Bacillus*, known for their ability to produce antimicrobial compounds, have been isolated from various sources in Indonesia, including peat soil, seaweed (as endophytic bacteria), and extreme ecosystems like sand dunes and hot springs. *Bacillus* is a cosmopolitan genus, making it adaptable to various ecosystems [32], [33]. *Bacillus* sp. can produce antimicrobial compounds for survival, including bacitracin, which disrupts cell wall integrity (Figure 1), aurantinin, causing plasma membrane lysis, and zwittermicin A, inhibiting transcription and DNA replication [34], [35], [36].

Streptomyces, the largest genus in the phylum Actinobacteria, is renowned for producing antibiotics [37]. As indicated in Table 1, *Streptomyces* has been isolated from various terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in Indonesia [38]. Some commercially important antibiotics produced by *Streptomyces* include streptomycin, daptomycin, chloramphenicol, tetracycline, and kanamycin [39]. Additionally, *Lactobacillus*, commonly used as probiotics, is known to produce antimicrobial compounds such as lantibiotics and bacteriocins [40].

Notably, interesting findings in Indonesian research include the antimicrobial activities of bacteria species such as *Marinomonas communis* and *Pseudoalteromonas rubra*. The genus *Marinomonas* was previously reported to produce antimicrobial proteins like lysine oxidase and marinocine [41], [42]. In Table 1, it can be observed that the prodiginine pigment from *P. rubra* is the only pure compound extracted and found to exhibit antimicrobial activity [21]. Apart from prodiginine pigment, *P. rubra* has also been reported to produce the antimicrobial compound isatin [43].

3. Exploration of Antimicrobial compounds-producing fungi in Indonesia

Fungi are known to produce a wide range of antimicrobial compounds, including antibiotics. As shown in Table 2, over the past decade, most fungal isolates with antimicrobial activity in Indonesia have been associated with both terrestrial and marine animals and plants, with dominant genera being *Aspergillus* and *Trichoderma*. Similar to bacteria, crude metabolite extracts from fungi have been used in antimicrobial activity tests in the most of the studies presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Fungi producing antimicrobial compounds isolated from Indonesia

Sources	Fungi species	Antimicrobial activity	Reference
<i>Artemisia annua</i> plant from Tawangmangu, Central Java	E2 species	Ethyl acetate extracts of the mycelium free supernatant of E2 showed growth inhibition towards <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>S. typhi</i> .	[44]
Marine sponge from Jepara, Central Java	<i>Trichoderma parareesei</i>	Fungal pigment extracted using methanol showed inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i> and <i>S. typhi</i> .	[45]
Mangrove plant (<i>Sonneratia griffithii</i>) from West Sumatra	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Candida</i> sp.	Butanol and Ethyl acetate extracts of the fungal liquid culture showed growth inhibition towards <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> .	[46]
Marine sponge (<i>Stylissa flabelliformis</i>) from Menjangan Island, Bali	<i>Trichoderma reesei</i>	Methanol extracts of the fungal culture showed growth inhibition towards <i>E. coli</i> , Methicillin Resistant <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>C. albicans</i> .	[47]
Macroalgae (<i>Euchema</i> sp.)	<i>Aspergillus elegans</i>	Ethyl acetate extracts and isolated antimicrobial compound of the mycelium free supernatant of <i>A. elegans</i> showed growth inhibition	[48]

		towards <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>E. coli</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> .	
Marine sponge (<i>Stylissa flabelliformis</i>) from Karimunjawa National Park, Central Java	<i>Aspergillus</i> <i>nomius</i>	<i>Aspergillus nomius</i> showed growth inhibition towards multi drug resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	[49]
Leaves of <i>Coleus</i> <i>ambonicus</i>	<i>Athelia rolfsii</i>	Ethyl acetate extracts of the mycelium free supernatant of <i>A. rolfsii</i> showed growth inhibition towards <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>S. aureus</i> .	[50]
Marine Sponge <i>Chelonaplysilla</i> sp from Mandeh Island, West Sumatra	<i>Aspergillus</i> <i>mellinus</i> , <i>Phomopsis</i> sp.	Ethyl acetate extracts of the fungal culture showed growth inhibition towards <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> .	[51]
Mangrove plant (<i>Sonneratia alba</i>) from Timor Island	<i>Aspergillus</i> <i>flavus</i>	Kojic acid produced by <i>A.</i> <i>flavus</i> showed growth inhibition towards <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> .	[52]
Medicinal plant (<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>) from South Sulawesi	<i>Penicillium</i> sp.	Ethyl acetate extracts of the mycelium free supernatant of <i>A. rolfsii</i> showed growth inhibition towards <i>S. typhi</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> .	[53]

Indomalayan termite (<i>Macrotermes gilvus</i> Hagen) mound from Bogor, West Java	<i>Fungus combs</i> (probably mix species)	- Ethyl acetate extract from fungus combs exhibited high antimicrobial activity against <i>S. aureus</i>, <i>E. coli</i>, <i>P. aeruginosa</i>, <i>A. flavus</i>, and <i>A. niger</i>. - Ethyl acetate extract of the fungus mound has Minimum Inhibitory Concentration and Minimum Fungicidal Concentration towards tested <i>Aspergillus</i> species of 0.78 and 1.56 mgmL⁻¹, respectively.	[54]
Sea squirt (<i>Eudistoma</i> sp) from Bunaken Island, North Sulawesi	<i>Trichoderma asperellum</i>	Ethyl acetate extracts of the fungal culture showed growth inhibition towards <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> sp., <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> .	[55]

The genus *Aspergillus* is known to produce antimicrobial compounds such as aspergillin, fumagillin, secofumitremorgins, sphingofungin, and kojic acid [5], [56], [57]. Meanwhile, *Trichoderma*, commonly used as a biocontrol agent in agriculture, has also been reported to produce compounds that inhibit human pathogenic bacteria [58], [59]. An intriguing discovery is the antimicrobial activity of *Athelia rolfsii*, previously known as a phytopathogenic fungus [60].

4. Conclusions

In the past decade, extensive exploration of bacteria and fungi producing antimicrobial compounds has been conducted across various ecosystems in Indonesia. In most studies, crude metabolite extracts from these microorganisms have exhibited antimicrobial activity. In the future, there is a need to isolate pure compounds and formulate them for the development of antimicrobial drugs based on these compounds.

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